

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

/084 W

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R 311555Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4375

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: STATE PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS DETENTE MOVES

REF: CAPE TOWN 124

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: STATE PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 31 SPEECH OPENING 1975 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION FOCUSSED ON COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC STATE OF AFFAIRS, BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED SAG'S DETENTE EFFORTS. LITTLE INDICATION OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATION WHICH MIGHT BE INTRODUCED DURING SESSION WAS OFFERED, AND ISSUE OF RACE RELATIONS NOT MENTIONED. GOVERNMENTAL INERTIA IN THIS FIELD WILL PROBABLY BE KEYSTONE OF OPPOSITION'S ARGUMENTS IN NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN FEB 3. END SUMMARY.

2. JANUARY 31 OPENING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT DEVOTED TO TRADITIONAL READING OF STATE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. MAJOR PORTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF SPEECH DEALT WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

DURING 1974 AND 1975 PROJECTIONS (SEPTTEL). HOWEVER, PRESIDENT FOUCHE ALSO EMPHASIZED GROWING AWARENESS OF IMPORTANT ROLE SOUTH AFRICA DESTINED TO PLAY IN WORLD AFFAIRS. HE SPOKE OF "DRAMATIC CHANGE" IN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DURING PAST SIX MONTHS, AND NOTED THAT "TENDENCY TOWARDS STERILE CONFRONTATION" HAS BEEN REPLACED BY GROWING DETERMINATION TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT SAID TASK AHEAD IS FORMIDABLE BUT DIFFICULTIES CAN BE OVERCOME BY DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL TRUST. "IN THIS REGARD, EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASEFIRE AND ENDING OF VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA ARE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES." STATE PRESIDENT CRITICIZED U.N. FOR VIOLATING ITS OWN CHARTER AND BEING "ADVERSE TO DIALOGUE AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS." HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCES BETTER PREPARED THAN EVER BEFORE TO PROTECT NATION.

3. SIGNIFICANTLY ABSENT FROM FOUCHE'S SPEECH WAS ANY DISCUSSION OF DOMESTIC RACIAL RELATIONS. THIS THEME WILL PROBABLY BE AMJOR FOCUS OF OPPOSITION ARGUMENTS IN NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE WHICH WILL BEGIN FEB 3. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S ACTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE DURING PAST MONTHS HAVE MADE HIM ALMOST IMPERVIOUS TO CHALLENGE ON THAT SCORE. OPPOSITION WILL THUS FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT'S INACTION IN CARRYING THROUGH ON PROMISES MADE IN U.N. AND ELSEWHERE TO "MOVE AWAY" FROM DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE. RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "WHITES ONLY" ADMISSION POLICY AT CAPE TOWN'S NICO MALAN THEATRE WILL BE CHANGED (REFTEL) WAS SURELY TIMED TO TAKE SOME WIND OUT OF OPPOSITION'S SAILS.

4. STATE PRESIDENT GAVE LITTLE INDICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR COMING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. AMONG FEW SPECIFICS MENTIONED ARE PLANS TO COMPLETE ACQUISITION OF LAND AND CONSOLIDATE HOMELANDS UNDER TERMS OF 1936 LAND ACT. PRESIDENT ALSO MENTIONED WORK OF PREPARATORY COMMISSION DRAWING UP CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR ATTAINMENT OF TRANSKEIAN INDEPENDENCE AND GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO RESTRUCTURE ALL HOMELAND HEALTH SYSTEMS. BOTH EFFORTS MIGHT RESULT IN FACILITATIVE LEGISLATION BEING INTRODUCED.

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5. NEW SESSION PARLIAMENT OFFERS POSSIBILITY OF INTERESTING, IF INCONSEQUENTIAL, DEBATES ON SOME CRITICAL ISSUES. AS BEFORE, MAJOR POLITICAL BATTLES WILL BE DECIDED IN NATIONAL PARTY CAUCUS. HOWEVER, LIKELY INTRODUCTION OF FINAL CONSOLIDATION PLANS FOR HOMELANDS MAY PROVE TO OPEN FISSURES WITHIN UNITED PARTY, WHICH HARBORS SERIOUSLY CONFLICTING VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. HARD OPPOSITION QUESTIONING OF GOVERNMENT SPORTS POLICY IS LIKELY TO PROVE EMBARRASSING

TO SOME NATS, THOUGH IT DOUBTFUL THAT NATIONAL PARTY  
DIFFERENCES ON THIS AND OTHER TOPICS WILL BECOME PUBLIC.  
OTHER AREAS OF POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE WHICH MAY BE DISCUSSED  
DURING SESSION INCLUDE POSSIBLE INCREASED LIMITS ON PRESS  
FREEDOM (HINTED AT BY PM VORSTER), IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF VAN WYK DE VRIES REPORT ON UNIVERSITIES,  
AND ISSUANCE OF SCHLEBUSCH (NOW LEGRANGE) REPORTS ON  
CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE AND DEFUNCT UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN  
MOVEMENT.  
HURD

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